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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health

Statement submitted by World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2009/100.

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Statement*

The World Federation of KSIMC welcomes the new role of the Economic and Social Council to monitor the achievements of the internationally agreed development goals. NGOs are uniquely positioned to provide the Council and its working mechanism with information, assistance and delivery of these agreed goals. NGOs are able to monitor successes in the achievement of these goals and provide recommendations to the Council or its related bodies.

In light on this year's Annual Ministerial Review theme of implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health, the World Federation will highlight some of its global health initiatives in areas where the needs are high and services are low, for the benefit of the community and humanity at large. In partnership with regional members and local agencies, the World Federation has undertaken several health projects for the last 30 years since its formation. These services have been provided to people in developed and developing countries as part of its strategic objectives and its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Over the years, it has spent millions of pounds collected from its fundraising efforts to support international causes in order to relieve poverty and promote public healthcare and education.

In Southern Asia, the World Federation successfully administers four eye-clinics and four primary healthcare centres, for the deprived people who cannot afford basic healthcare or eye-care. The healthcare centres provide universal services such as antenatal care, child health development, immunisations, diagnoses, and treatment of diseases such as heart condition, tuberculoses and cancer, according to the requirements of the local region. The eye clinics regularly organise free eye-camps for the local community, giving the 'gift of sight' to the blind. In Iraq, much-needed medical equipment, such as infant incubators, transfusion sets, and operation equipment were distributed to a maternity hospital. This equipment has provided a lifeline to the children in the war-torn country.

In Europe and North America, the World Federation is working with its regional members to regularly organise medical screening programs within the community to combat and create awareness for medical conditions such as obesity, diabetes, stress, smoking, HIV/AIDs, lupus, breast cancer, rubella, deep vain thrombosis, thalaessemia and meningitis.

In East Africa, the World Federation, working with its regional members, pursues robust health activities to create awareness for common medical conditions, and provides medicines and medical assistance to two dispensaries in the distant suburbs. The World Federation also manages an autistic centre in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania for the social needs of disabled children in the area.

The World Federation believes it has made a significant contribution to achieving some of the health objectives of the MDGs. The World Federation seeks to promote further collaboration with other partners to intensify health initiatives so that the deserving people continue receiving their basic rights.

* Issued without formal editing.